

Provider Taxonomy 101 document

1. What is Provider Taxonomy?

The general term taxonomy refers to a classification system. For healthcare electronic billing purposes, Provider Taxonomy refers to the national provider classification system created by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This national classification system was created as part of the National Provider Identification (NPI) rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which created standard code and transactions for healthcare Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

The national Provider Taxonomy code identifies a provider's type and area of specialization. Provider Taxonomy codes are 10 characters in length and include both alpha (letters) and numeric (numbers) characters. The breakdown of the taxonomy codes are as follows: The first two digits are **provider type**, the next two digits are **provider specialty**, and the next five digits are the **provider subspecialty**. The last character is reserved for future use so it will display as an "X." For example, 208D00000X is the taxonomy code for a General Practice Physician. A provider can have multiple Provider Taxonomy codes.

Descriptions for Provider Taxonomy codes are administered and updated on 4/1 and 10/1 of every year at the federal level by Health and Human Services (HHS) at www.hhs.gov. A complete list of Provider Taxonomy codes and descriptions are located at The Washington Publishing Company website at www.wpc-edi.com/taxonomy. You can make changes to your taxonomy during re-enrollment in the PRISM Claims system.

More information regarding taxonomy codes is available at:

www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Taxonomy.html

2. Why do I need to know about Provider Taxonomy?

Provider Taxonomy is important to understand due to its use in the PRISM Provider Enrollment system. Provider Taxonomy codes will replace the non-standard "Provider Type/Specialty/Subspecialty" codes that are applicable to La Medicaid only and still used by the Molina Provider Enrollment system. Within the PRISM system, taxonomy will identify the types of services you will be providing and it is used in determining payment of services you provide. Many private health insurance companies and other government payers currently use taxonomy codes for provider enrollment and claims payments.

3. Why was a Provider Taxonomy code assigned to me?

When completing the transfer of current Louisiana Medicaid Providers from Molina to the PRISM Claims System (operated by CNSI & Noridian Administrative Services, the Louisiana Medicaid provider type and specialty indicators were "mapped" to an equivalent national Provider Taxonomy code. The new PRISM system will use this information in processing claims.

4. How can I identify and verify my Provider Taxonomy code?

Currently enrolled providers, upon receiving their PRISM Provider Enrollment credentials, can identify which taxonomies DHH associated to their provider file in the PRISM Provider Enrollment system by visiting the PRISM website at www.medicaid.la.gov/PRISM. Newly enrolling providers should refer to the Enrollment Checklists located at <http://prism.la.gov/Documents/DetermineChecklistByEnrollType.pdf>. These checklists correspond to the legacy provider types and identify the correct taxonomies.

5. What else do I need to know about Provider Taxonomy?

Only a subset of the National Provider Taxonomies was used when mapping the current Louisiana Medicaid provider database to the PRISM Provider Enrollment system. Only those Provider Taxonomies shown in the drop-down list in the PRISM Provider Enrollment system or on the crosswalk fact sheet available on the PRISM website at www.medicaid.la.gov/PRISM are being used.

DHH is unable to identify which Provider Taxonomies you used when you obtained your National Provider Identifier (NPI). Unfortunately, unlike NPIs, there is no database for accessing taxonomies from CMS. Therefore, Provider Taxonomies have been assigned based on type and specialty of the provider listed in the Molina Provider Enrollment system today.

6. Why weren't the existing provider type, specialty and subspecialty converted into the PRISM Provider Enrollment system?

Use of the National HIPAA-compliant Provider Taxonomy codes is a generally recognized standard among claims payers. The current provider type, specialty and subspecialty designations were specific only to the Louisiana Medicaid program. Implementation of a new claims payment system necessitated converting the existing provider type, specialty, and subspecialty information from the current Molina Provider Enrollment system into the Provider Taxonomy codes used in the PRISM system. **During re-enrollment, providers need to verify that the selections DHH made during the data conversion process are correct.**

7. How do I obtain descriptions for federal taxonomy codes?

Descriptions for each federal Provider Taxonomy code are administered at the federal level by Health and Human Services (HHS). A complete list and descriptions may be found at www.wpcedi.com/taxonomy.

8. Why are only some federal Provider taxonomy codes available in the PRISM Provider Enrollment system?

With thousands of Provider Taxonomy codes defined at the national level, only the codes applicable to DHH-covered services will be utilized. Therefore, only a subset of national codes is recognized as valid Provider Taxonomy codes for DHH-covered services and payment.

9. How often will DHH review its list of adopted Provider Taxonomy codes?

DHH considers Provider Taxonomy updates from Health and Human Services (HHS) twice a year (4/1 and 10/1).